

Fairfield welcomes holidays with song, Santa, story



A group wearing Santa hats walk along West Texas Street during the Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Festivities in downtown Fairfield, Friday. The event included holiday singing, dancing and the lighting of the Christmas Tree at the Government Center. (Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic)

By [Amy Maginnis-Honey](#) | December 06, 2014 |

FAIRFIELD — There would be no selfies for Bill Hampton.

The Suisun City resident only wanted the downtown Fairfield Christmas tree in his photograph.

He was among the crowd on hand Friday night as the city kicked off the holiday season with an evening of entertainment, a scavenger hunt and a story about Christmas in Fairfield, complete with a visit from “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas” characters.

Free hay rides were offered, complete with a stop at Santa’s mail box.

Santa heard many a wish from children after he arrived at the festivities via a fire truck.

The Ornelas family donned festive headgear for the annual tree-lighting ceremony.

Julianna Ornelas, 7, was topped with a hat like an elf would wear. Mom Heather Ornelas wore a hat with Minnie Mouse ears. Dad Lionel Ornelas’ cap featured Jack Skellington. It was completed with a white beard.

Alyssa Jourique, 10, got some last-minute touch-up on her hair from her mom, Robin Jourique. The young girl is Miss Jr. Teen California.

“It’s nice to come out here,” she said. Rain or shine, Alyssa would also perform in a jazz dance routine.

She led the parade last weekend at Jelly Belly just before the tree was lit there. She will be in Suisun City on Saturday.

The evening kicked off Friday with Fairfield Mayor Harry Price sharing a story of Christmas in Fairfield.

He asked the small children in the crowd to come forward to hear an important story about the town. He talked of the year 1968 and the role of Travis Air Force Base. It was the height of the Vietnam War and men, and even some women, were deployed that Christmas.

“It was a cold and windy night when I heard what I thought was rain,” he said. That was followed by pitter-patter sound, which did not come from the roof, but rather the window of his home.

A tap on the door followed and when Price opened it, he was greeted by Tiny Tim and his elf. They were there to let him know Santa would be there soon.

The story picked up in 1970 and included a town of residents looking forward to Christmas.

“But it didn’t turn out the same as 1968,” Price said. “Christmas almost didn’t happen.”

Before more details were shared, the Grinch made an appearance. So did Cindy Lou Who.

The Grinch hinted at stealing Christmas a second time before Cindy Lou Who asked the crowd to join her in singing some Christmas songs.

Santa arrived in the nick of time to hold the Grinch at bay and watch as the tree was lit.

He then took up residence in a store and heard many Christmas lists, including that of Peyton Carter, 6. Wearing a holiday sweater, the young girl told the jolly guy in the red suit she wanted a Legos Cinderella castle that comes with a carriage and a My Little Pony movie.

Down the street, at Gordon’s Music and Sound, the Crystal Middle School jazz band and choir entertained with a variety of holiday tunes to the delight of parents and onlookers.

The sweetest place to be was Famous Creations, where scavenger hunters could decorate their own cupcakes.

Kylee Strahan, 5, decorated hers with sprinkles as her mom, Lauren Strahan, looked on. The young girl would have to wait to eat the treat.

“She hasn’t had dinner yet,” Lauren Strahan said.

Anson Konstantinopoulos, 13, waited patiently to add sprinkles to his cupcake. He was on the scavenger hunt, having secured about half the items.

The event was sponsored by the Fairfield Main Street Association and also included performances from Danc-Sing Stars Studio, the Holy Spirit School band and choir, B-Sharp Academy, Starbound Theatre and Mexican Racies Ballet Folklorico.

A “Frozen” bounce house attracted a crowd as visitors could meet with Elsa and Anna, the sisters in the movie “Frozen.”

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